

The Old Paludians Newsletter



Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2018

EDITORIAL

It has again been a pleasure to receive news of Old Pals from around the country and beyond. What particularly interests me is the variety of life stories which arrive, whether as updates or obituaries. Some members have led decidedly peripatetic lives, while at the other end of the spectrum there are two ladies in this issue who spent their entire lives in Burnham, where they were obviously highly valued members of the community. I guess that the latter type of history will become increasingly rare.

Readers may recall that last year's Newsletter featured interviews with two Old Pals who had become widely known in their field. Those items were well received but I'm afraid that space considerations constrain many such "extras". The Association is run on a modest budget and the additional costs incurred in producing a hardcopy document of more than 24 pages (for those without email) are considerable. Therefore, apart from the articles on Jack Hammond and the SGS Army Cadet Force, the emphasis this year is again on members' news.

Since last year we have suffered a number of losses, including Mr Painter, former SGS Headmaster, and Kathy Clark. Since he arrived a couple of years after my departure, I don't remember Mr Painter but he was obviously a worthy successor to Dr Long and is remembered with respect by many pupils from the 60s, 70s and 80s. Kathy is probably less well-known but along with several others played a critical role in ensuring the survival of the Old Paludians, which threatened to fold in the 1990s. In different ways we owe them both a debt of thanks. A loss of a different kind came with the news of the impending departure of Mrs Hernandez Estrada, the school Principal over recent years. She has always been willing to give of her time to support the OPA on Reunion Day and will be much missed by us all. We look forward to working with Mark Pritchard, her successor.

Recently one of my contemporaries posed an interesting question: which teachers from our era had we found inspiring? This issue elicited considerable debate via email - maybe we old boys don't have enough to do. It would have been interesting to hear views from SHS alumni too - maybe next year? Anyway, the discussion came down to the fact that nobody (in our limited group) could actually claim that a specific teacher had inspired him in terms of career or lifelong interest in a particular subject. It was more a case of the effectiveness with which the teacher put his subject across to pupils. Inevitably, some managed this better than others; some succeeded via method and discipline (no names!), while others were more noted for enthusiasm and personability. It was interesting to note that acts of kindness by a member of staff towards a pupil had become lifelong memories for some - presumably, because it was slightly unexpected in a disciplined environment. Of course, acts of an opposite nature have also never been forgotten!

Bob Moss, Editor

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As your Chairman, I see my mission being to **"Ensure the Longevity and Success of the Old Paludians Association (OPA)"**. To succeed requires a two-pronged approach:

Firstly, we need to provide the loyal existing members of the OPA with what they are looking for - an opportunity to meet friends every year, to hear news about their friends and learn about the latest activities of the host school, Upton Court Grammar School. This will be achieved via the annual Reunion and the yearly Newsletter.

Secondly, we need to attract new, young members into the Association. This is a challenge we must overcome, notwithstanding the competing importance of social media. If we fail, the Association will go out of existence. This is not a simple task. Firstly, we must build a strong relationship with current students. The existing gap in the ages of members is because this has been neglected for decades. To address this deficiency, a number of initiatives have been undertaken over the last year, including:

The previous practice of supplying commemorative books to the school library has been replaced by funding selected school projects approved by the Committee. As the school department heads must submit applications for funds, this brings us into direct contact with them. One such project is a water fountain for pupils - this will have a plaque above it acknowledging that it has been donated by the OPA.

The wireless head microphone sets we will be using at the Reunion are another example of an OPA-funded project for use in school productions.

To increase the visibility of the OPA, we have had archive displays at Parents' Evenings and at school artistic performances.

OPA members have attended Governors' meetings (we now have an OPA governor) and judged school projects on School Science Day. We will be attending school assemblies and giving badges to participating students.

This year will see the introduction of two new school prizes, donated by the OPA, for academic and sporting achievement. The prizes commemorate two famous Old Paludians, Laurie Brokenshire and Jack Hammerton. You can read more about them in another part of this Newsletter.

Over the last year Ian Cairns and Rajesh Sharma have been working on a new website that will eventually bring the school and the OPA closer together and be populated with news, so that it is active rather than static. This is essential in the modern communication world.

It is all very much "work in progress" but a lot has been achieved over the last year. The rapprochement is by no means one-sided - driven by the Principal and executed by the Senior Assistant Principal, Naveed Hussain, the school is as interested as we are in establishing the OPA as the natural progression for alumni.

May I thank all of you who have made donations throughout the year. These have enabled us to fund our modest running costs and provide the funding for the initiatives that are so important in building our new relationship with the school and in turn stimulating the interest of current students in joining the OPA when they leave. As a consequence of your generosity, you will see from the Treasurer's Report (elsewhere in this Newsletter) that the OPA is financially sound. The Committee has been very hard working this last year and I thank them for their support and the time they have given up in the interest of the Old Paludians Association.

I look forward to meeting more of you at the Reunion and if you have any suggestions, however small, there will be a Suggestions Book at reception to write them in.

Ronald H. Fidler, Chairman

ALL CHANGE AT UPTON COURT GRAMMAR SCHOOL

In September 2017 **Mr Mark Pritchard** took over as the new Head of UCGS, with his predecessor, **Mrs Mercedes Hernandez Estrada**, becoming CEO of the Pioneer Educational Trust (covering three schools), as well President Emerita of the OPA. However, Mercedes has now decided to resign and move to Spain. She sends the following message:

"Dear Old Paludians,

After twenty-eight years as a teacher and school leader in UK schools, I have taken the difficult decision to resign my post. I will be returning to Spain at the end of this academic year, to be closer to my mother and family. It has been a real pleasure, indeed an honour, to serve the school as its Principal from 2010 to 2017, and since then as CEO of the Trust of which the school is a member. I have enjoyed the challenges and the successes of my eight years in post and want to believe that I have made a positive contribution to the life of the school during my tenure. I have always received a warm welcome from the Old Paludians at every event and reunion. Your commitment to the school and its students is one that I admire and share. As I start my round of farewells, I want you to know how much this school means to me and how appreciated you have always made me feel. As a soon-to-be ex-member of staff, I will join the Association and look forward to hearing about its plans to engage future generations of students and staff.

With gratitude and admiration. Ad Astra!

Kind regards, M Hernández Estrada"

SLOUGH WAR HERO COMMEMORATED

In August 2017 the OPA received an invitation from Shoreham Aircraft Museum, Kent, to attend the unveiling of a memorial stone commemorating the death of fighter pilot **Sgt Jack Hammerton (Slough Secondary School, 1926-31)**. The ceremony duly took place on September 23rd at the Kent village of Noah's Ark. A wreath was laid on the memorial by our chairman, **Ron Fidler** (see photograph below) and a World War II Hurricane circled the ceremony. A copy of the programme for the event was kindly supplied by **Margaret Galloway (Joel, 1949-57)**. The following article is based on one which appeared in the 2006 Old Paludians Newsletter, which was the late **Valerie Storey's** last as editor:

Jack Hammerton was born in Slough on 5th March 1915 to William and Maud Hammerton, his father being a journeyman blacksmith by trade. Growing up in the family home on India Road in Slough, from 1926 until mid-1931 the young Jack attended Slough Secondary School, where, apart from his academic studies, he shone as a keen sportsman and represented his school in both football and cricket, being made captain of the first XI football team for the 1930-31 season. After leaving school, he gained employment with the Equitable Building Society. In March 1939 he joined the RAF Volunteer Reserve to become a pilot. Two days before Great Britain declared war against Germany on 3rd September, Jack was called up and sent to Woodley near Reading to begin his flying training. With training completed and proudly wearing his "pilot's wings", Sergeant Jack Hammerton was not thrust straight into combat despite the intensity of the Battle of Britain. His first posting in August 1940 was to Scotland (with No. 3 Squadron of RAF Fighter Command to fly the Hawker Hurricane), where he could gain a measure of operational experience before facing potentially stronger enemy forces.

The month of September passed with determined attacks by the *Luftwaffe* failing to achieve air superiority over the RAF, who held firm in their defence of British skies, but the attacks continued and increasingly so at night as *The Blitz* on Britain's cities started in earnest. A dramatic change to Jack's RAF career occurred in early October 1940, when he was posted to 615 "County of Surrey" Squadron at RAF Northolt near London. Aerial combat with the *Luftwaffe* was now a certainty. However, Jack's first major incident that month did not occur against the enemy but in an accidental take-off collision with a squadron colleague, though fortunately neither pilot was injured.



On 29th October Jack recorded his clash against a *Junkers Ju-88* bomber in an official combat report: *"I got separated from my section after enemy aircraft had been sighted. I saw an enemy aircraft...some considerable height above me, so followed and reached a height of about 20,000 feet, when the enemy aircraft dived...I followed down to about 7,000 feet...I went in and delivered a short burst... I saw that the machine was twin-engined and apparently a Ju-88. I again followed it out to sea and got in a long burst from astern and last saw it losing height with clouds of smoke coming from it."*

Three days afterwards, in chilling foreboding of events soon to occur, Jack mysteriously went "missing" during a fighter patrol, but he turned up safe and sound in the evening after probably having to land at another RAF airfield to refuel. Then on 6th November, during another patrol, he went missing again after apparently chasing some enemy aircraft and was last seen leaving the formation at about 25,000 feet. What exactly happened no-one knows, because Jack did not return to Northolt and there was no sign of him the following day. A week passed by on the squadron with no news of his fate; then on 13th November news was received that Jack had been discovered dead by his burnt-out Hurricane at a small village called Noah's Ark, between Kemsing and Seal in Kent. Why he crashed was never fully established, though the "Flying Accident Card" for his Hurricane states control was lost at 24,000 feet due to lack of oxygen. It was sadly not unknown for pilots to slip into unconsciousness due to oxygen starvation and, as their aircraft dived to earth, not to regain their senses in time to pull out from the dive or take to their parachute. Jack was laid to rest in his home town at Stoke Road Cemetery, Slough.

Some relics from Jack Hammerton's wrecked fighter, recovered at the crash-site, are on display at the Shoreham Aircraft Museum near Sevenoaks. They and the memorial will ensure that, as "One of The Few" from the Battle of Britain who made the supreme sacrifice, Jack will never be forgotten.

The photograph below shows Jack (front row, centre) as captain of the Slough Secondary School football team in 1930,



SGS ARMY CADET FORCE AND QUIZZING

The following article was contributed by **Edward Lucas-Smith (1956-63)**:

One of the many things I learnt from the SGS ACF was that the British Army has a language of its own. It makes liberal use of a small number of expletives which appear, with no apparent consistency, as verbs, nouns, adverbs, adjectives, gerunds, pronouns and so on; and yet each profanity is always appropriate. It has a highly developed syntax which takes us back to the classical roots of language, eg. "Boots black two polished parade marching for the use of". But most of all it rejoices in the use of the mnemonic.

There will be a few ex-cadets who might have forgotten GRIT (Group: Range: Indication: Target). DoCOF (Down: Crawl: Observe: Fire) may also have eluded memory. I hope that my personal favourite SMEACQ (Situation: Mission: Execution: Administration and Logistics: Command and Signals: Questions) remains fixed in the mind. But jankers for any cadet who has forgotten KOYLI! (*see end of article if you have - Ed.*)

The last parade of the autumn term was always the cadets' Christmas party. Held in the hall (shirt-sleeved order, soft shoes, black and polished), it took the form of a series of inter-section games and competitions. Sections were awarded points which were marked, as in "Carry On Sergeant", on a matrix on a board by the Senior NCO. After tea (not the "tea meal", which in Army parlance is something completely different), which comprised sandwiches, buns, chocolate fingers, chocolate mini-Swiss rolls and squash, we all settled down to what **Major Wharmby** referred to as "Jim's Old Quiz".

The Quiz today is ubiquitous but back then it was limited to "What's My Line", "Top of the Form" and "The Cabbage Quiz" on Crackerjack (everyone shout "Crackerjack!"). I loved Jim's Old Quiz. It covered, as one might expect, history (*which he taught - Ed.*), politics, and military matters. Questions varied year on year except for the one ever-present: "What is the meaning of KOYLI?"

It is well documented and publicised that my first career on leaving education was cleaning floors. It came to an abrupt end over a minor legal matter and I moved on, after a trip on a trawler and a few months working in factories, to my second career, a proper job in a big company in the then growing IT Industry. I spent 20+ years doing the corporate stuff with occasional promotions and, curiously, found myself using quizzes as a management tool. This career came to an equally abrupt end when I failed to realize that my bosses' boss (big company) was "protecting" my worst performing sales person, who did not appreciate my approach to her work.

For the next step in my career I invested in a franchise, which I ran for some 13 roller-coaster years; and again, I was drawn to quiz when I was asked by the mighty Xerox to put together a quiz for a Sales training project. Finally, my career ambitions turned to temping at Richmond Council, at Budweiser Brewery (where I ran their Christmas quiz) and at a local charity.

Retirement. Pension. Oh, the joy! Oh, the peace and quiet! Oh no - it was not to be. My son had decided to "go it alone" and, against expectations, as anyone who knows him would say, was running a couple of pub quizzes in Twickenham. He asked me to help him. We now run 80+ quizzes a week throughout London, employing 50 or so people in the gig economy. We have even reached as far as Slough, where we run a Thursday evening quiz in the "Long Barn" in Cippenham Lane (attended

occasionally by some Old Paludians from Twinchies Lane). So it has come full circle. There is no escape from the Quiz.

And KOYLI? Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry - as Nigel Molesworth would say, "Any fule kno that!".

****STAFF AND PUPILS SECTION****

PLEASE NOTE: The paragraphs below are divided as follows:

- 1) **STAFF** - news followed by "In Memoriam" section
- 2) **PUPILS** - listed by decade, with the key date being when each pupil **started** their SSS/SHS/SGS education. Each decade is subdivided into "**GIRLS**" and "**BOYS**", followed by a similar "**In Memoriam**" section.

****STAFF NEWS****

****IN MEMORIAM ****

Mr Gerald Painter (1967-88) - it is with great sadness that we record the death in November 2017 of Mr Painter at the age of 91. Mr Painter was one of our longest serving principals. He became Head of Slough Grammar School for Boys in 1966, retiring in 1988 from the headship of what had become Upton Grammar School. It was a period of profound educational change, involving much upheaval: constant pressure for comprehensive restructuring, raising of the school leaving age, the transfer of Slough from Buckinghamshire to Berkshire and falling rolls (leading to the enforced merger of Slough High and Slough Grammar) all come to mind. It was a challenging time, yet throughout this period the school maintained its high standards and enhanced its reputation. Academic results reached new heights; school activities flourished; drama, music, sport, societies and trips abounded; and links with parents and industry were developed. None of this would have happened without good leadership. Mr Painter was a courteous steward of the school's traditions, innovating but careful not to trample on what had been established over the years since 1912. He encouraged and supported staff and students alike, taking a keen and genuine interest in every aspect of school life. Tellingly, he kept his feet on the ground, continuing to teach physics throughout his period in office. My colleague, Miss Baker, recalls finding him on his knees one winter morning, repairing the staff room's electric fire when the LEA had failed to do so! (Many thanks to **David Rogers** for this tribute. Mr Painter's funeral was held on November 27th at the Chilterns Crematorium in Amersham. Ed.)

David Joyner (1963-65) - David Joyner died in Whittington Hospital on December 30th 2016, aged 75, after having been diagnosed with Alzheimer's a decade earlier and spending a number of years in a care home. David came to SGS in 1963 from Reading University as an assistant to Mr J Moutrie in the music department. He left in 1965 to take up a choral scholarship at St George's Chapel, Windsor. In addition to being a talented musician, he was a lively and popular teacher. For over 30 years he taught at Fitzjohn's School in Hampstead. A former pupil was the All Saints singer Melanie Blatt, who said Mr Joyner was the first person who inspired her to sing. She described him as "an amazing teacher to whom I'll forever be grateful", while the British cellist Vashti Hunter said he was "just the most inspiring person". Apart from teaching, David also sang at

royal ceremonies and in major opera houses around the world. (*Extracts for this obituary have been taken from the "Camden New Journal" of 13th January 2017, where more information is available on David's life and death - this is available online. Ed.*)

Catherine Bowater (1971-1995) - The following obituary was provided by **Jacqueline Waters (Staff 1981-2005)**: "We are sad to report the death on 9th September 2017 of Catherine Bowater, a much loved and respected colleague, after a battle with cancer. Catherine came to Slough Grammar School in 1971 to teach biology and soon became Head of Department. She inspired her students with her love of her subject, many of them going on to study medicine and to become leaders in their fields. After she retired she continued to support SGS from time to time as a supply teacher. Her interest in archaeology led her to enrol at Oxford University, where her studies gained her an Advanced Diploma in Archaeology. Catherine loved travelling, whether it was school trips to Russia or China, or skiing in Europe. In retirement she and her husband, Frank, continued their travels (until Frank's death in 2015), enjoying far-flung places such as Easter Island and Antarctica. At home she was never idle and served for many years as a governor at Beaconsfield High School. Catherine was a good friend, as well as a loyal and supportive colleague, who is sorely missed by friends and family alike.

****NEWS OF FORMER PUPILS****

****1930s****

****IN MEMORIAM****

GIRLS

Marjorie Cruse (1931-35) - in December 2017 we learned that Marjorie had passed away. Marjorie was our most senior member. After leaving school she went to work at High Duty Alloys on Slough Trading Estate, where she remained until retirement. She cycled home each day to have lunch with her parents and looked after them in their senior years. **Jean Tyler** remembers visiting her at Crosfield House in Gerrards Cross, where she had her own apartment; she stayed at this address until moving to a nursing home for the last couple of weeks of her life. Her sister-in-law Audrey Cruse says that her interests were ballroom dancing, archery and badminton.

Edna Parrett (Hearn, 1937-43) - It was with regret that we learned of Edna's death on September 30th 2017. Her funeral service was held at St Peter's Church in Burnham at the end of October. Daughter Liz and son John have kindly provided the following obituary: "Edna was a true Burnham girl, born in 1927 in a small cottage at the bottom of the High Street to the local butcher (*apparently, the shop only recently closed - Ed.*) and his wife. She was the third of five children. While the children were young they moved to a cottage on Britwell Road, nearer to the shop. Edna was to spend all her life in Burnham. St. Peter's Church was a constant part of her life and in childhood she was a loyal attendee of the Sunday School. She clearly enjoyed it and the family have a number of lovely books given to her as prizes. She was confirmed just before Christmas at the age of 14 by the Bishop of Buckingham, the event being marked in a small, hardback book along with the words "**Be Loyal**". When you look back at Edna's life, those words carry through. Edna was a bell-ringer and member of the church youth club and it was here that she met her future husband Geoffrey. She subsequently joined the Young Wives Group and later the Mothers Union, where for many years she was involved in administration. She remained a member all her life and in later years also assisted at the church as a verger.

After leaving SHS Edna took a job in Maidenhead working for a bank. She often referred to that job and clearly enjoyed it, as it entailed meeting and greeting people - something she was always good at. Times were different then and married women were not allowed to work in the bank, so she left and took a job in Thatcher's, a local family company that many will remember towards the bottom of the High Street. She remained there until she left to have a family.

Although Edna is mostly associated with the Girl Guides, during early married life she and Geoff were active supporters of Lent Rise Scouts - a link that was never lost. As the children went to school, Edna was a regular "Mum volunteer" who went in one afternoon a week to listen to reading; and although she was a typical busy mum, ferrying children to different activities as well as juggling household chores, she agreed when approached to help set up a new Brownie unit (3rd Burnham Brownies) in the 1970s. That was not as simple as it sounded: there was a new Guide hut to be built and of course her rock, Geoff, was enlisted to help with the task! Through the Guides she made many very dear and close friends. She took Brownies for so long that she had grown-up Brownies bringing their daughters along! It was very rare for her to walk down the High Street without someone saying "Hello, Brown Owl!" In fact, walking the High Street with Edna could often take ages because there were just so many people whose lives she had touched. And she always made time to say hello and ask how THEY were. She was dedicated and loyal to all her causes and a loyal friend to everyone she knew."

Pamela Kilpin (Brown, 1939-46) - Pamela lived in Brantford in Ontario, Canada. She recalled her SHS days in the 2016 Newsletter, when she wrote: "We had a lot of good times over the years in spite of the War." She came to England 10 years ago on the Queen Mary II to celebrate her 80th birthday. Her daughter Jill Collins writes: "Pamela passed away surrounded by her family at the Brantford General Hospital, Sunday, January 14th, 2018 in her 91st year. She was the wife of the late Roland Kilpin (2008) and a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by her sister Olive Smith. Pamela was a devoted volunteer at the Brantford Public Library for many years; recently retired after 60 years in the Grace Anglican Church Choir; and was a lifetime member of the Brantford Stamp Club. A celebration of her life was held at Grace Anglican Church on February 1st, 2018. A tree will be planted in memory of Pamela in the Beckett-Glaves Memorial Forest."

BOYS

John Pallett (1935-41) - John passed away peacefully at home in April 2017 at the age of 91. His daughter-in-law Paula Pallett kindly provided the following obituary: "John Maxwell James Pallett was born in 1925 and passed away on June 6th 2017. John was above all a family man. He married Gwen Bates in 1948 and they enjoyed a very happy 51 years together until Gwen's sad and sudden death in 2000. They had one son, Peter, who gave them three grandchildren - they in turn provided six gorgeous great-grandchildren, who all knew and loved playing with their great-grandfather. As a young man John's sport was hockey (*he played as a back in the Old Pals team at the same time as our chairman was goalkeeper - Ed*). With Gwen he was of the era that embraced the new-fangled package holidays abroad. They swam, played bowls and danced their way through life with a smile. They retired to Highcliffe on the south coast and spent many happy years there. He spent his last 8 years living with Peter and his wife Paula and all the family. Right to the end he completed Sudoku and maths puzzles and read the newspaper cover to cover daily. He enjoyed his food and a nice "nightcap." John died peacefully in his sleep, in bed at home - not a bad way to go!"

Allan Burney (1936-41) - Allan passed away in a hospice on the Isle of Wight. We regret that no obituary for Allen is available.

Stanley Simmance (1939-45) - Stanley's widow Betty wrote to say that he had died in Winchester Hospital on January 21st 2018. She added that Stanley was a proud Old Paludian and appreciated being kept in touch with news of other alumni.

****1940s****

GIRLS

Gwen Gale (Knight, 1941-47) - It was sad to lose **Pamela Knowlton** see ("In Memoriam" below). She was such a well-known character and a loyal supporter of the Old Pals for many years. **June Ginger (Hunt, 1941-47)** in the USA has had to move to a nursing home near to her daughter Silvia after the death of her husband John. **Annette Chant (Pountain, 1944-48)** has also moved to a nursing home, which happens to be next door to her home, so that her husband Deryck is able to walk across to see her twice a day. I have carried out my usual pre-Reunion ring-round and have spoken to **Audrey Walden (1940-46)**, **Yvonne Wagstaff (Hutchins, 1940-46)**, **Betty Wess (Cohen, 1941-46)** and **Ruth Edgar (Oates, 1941-46)**. I could not get a reply from **Jean Jones (Lunn, 1941-46)**, so I hope that she is all right. I will send her a letter later. I'm looking forward to the Reunion.

Peggy Handcock (Bigg, 1941-48) - I regret I am unable to attend this year, although I should have liked to come along. I send my good wishes. I kept fairly fit until Christmas, walking my two labradors for about an hour every day. At Christmas I was struck down by an ear infection but I hope to be fit again soon to resume an active life. We celebrated our Diamond Wedding in 2016. My sister Beryl celebrated her 90th birthday last year; she still lives near Cambridge but is not very mobile. I would be delighted to hear from anyone in my year who is still around!

Margaret Paine (1943-48) - During this last year I have lost a few good friends, including **Kathy Clark (Jamieson)**, ex-chairman of our committee; also **Jean Porter (Currie)**, **Edna Parrett (Heath)** and just recently **Anne Letchford (Reeves** - see "In Memoriam" either above or below for all these alumni). I attended the funerals of the last three at Slough Crematorium. It's inevitable as you get older to lose friends but we remember the good times we had with them all. I am keeping reasonably well for my age, barring aches and pains; legs not good for walking but fortunately I still drive, play Scrabble and do puzzles/crosswords to keep the brain working. Family are nearing retirement now - I must be old! Grandchildren are all doing well, none married yet. My niece Emily McLean has recently graduated with a B.A in Geography at the University of South Queensland - she emigrated with her family and sister Kirsty four years ago.

Shirley Jones (Stainer, 1948-53) - I'm sorry that I shall again miss the reunion - the choir I sing with have a concert that day. 2017 was a tough year - my husband was diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer in June and died peacefully in August. Some of you who attended SGS 1948-55 may remember him - **Tony Jones** (see "In Memoriam below"). I send my good wishes to all who were at SHS and SGS with us.

BOYS

Michael Taylor (1946-51) - Thank you for your kind invitation to the reunion, but I live in NZ and am too old and decrepit to travel to the UK any more, much as I would like to; also for your Christmas card, a snowy view of the school which I still have on display in my den. I don't think I

ever saw it covered in so much snow and of course, no pupil would ever have considered using the front door to gain access to the place. Mr Clarke had his office just inside to the right and the only time I ever went down to it was for punishment, e.g. four strokes of the cane for being late, the same for being sent out of class. Mr Clarke would conduct regular patrols along the corridor and any boy found standing outside a classroom door was ordered down to his office. Many was the time I stood there hoping time would go faster so that the period would be over and I could escape back into my next class. Down at his office he would ask his secretary, Mrs Hazlewood, to leave the office for a moment while we got our regular four strokes of the cane across the posterior. PS. When I wake up in the morning I have a look at the Obituary column in the paper first and if my name isn't on it, I get up!

IN MEMORIAM

GIRLS

Barbara Keast (Bucknell, 1940-45) - Barbara's sister **Hazel Strange (Bucknell, 1940-45)** advised that she had passed away in 2017. Hazel did not wish to supply any additional information.

Dawn Bennett (1941-46) - **Christine Tipper (Gibbs, SHS 1967-74)** wrote in February to let us know that her godmother, Miss Edith Dawn Bennett, had died in January 2018. Apparently Dawn received the Newsletter regularly and read it with relish. She also attended some of the Old Pals reunions. Christine writes: "At SHS Dawn made lifelong friends with my mother **Doreen Gibbs (née Richardson)** and **Evelyn Greenwood (née Gibbons)**. Subsequently she became godmother to Doreen's daughter, Christine, and an honorary aunt to the rest of the family. Dawn never married and lived all her life in Burnham. She was well-known in the village, where she was an active member of the local church, W.I. and the Trefoil Guild. She enjoyed reading the Old Pals Newsletter and sharing the news with Christine who, along with her three sisters **Pamela, Margaret and Lynne (all Gibbs)**, also attended Slough High School. Dawn will be sadly missed."

Pamela Knowlton (Maisey, 1941-46) - Pamela died on October 15th 2017, aged 87. At the time of her death she was living in Clewer, though earlier she had lived in Eton Wick (*I remember her mother, who used to give piano lessons - Ed.*) A tall figure, Pamela was noted in the village for her smart dress sense and colourful appearance. Her father worked at the Eton Boathouse by Windsor Bridge and there were several other people in Eton, possibly related, with the surname Maisey. Pamela's husband passed away some years ago, she had no children and her best friend is not in a position to help. It has therefore not been possible to obtain more complete information for an obituary.

Kathy Clark (Jamieson, 1942-48) - Kathy, a former Old Pals chairman, died in 2017 in her 86th year. We all owe Kathy a debt of gratitude, as she was one of those instrumental in rescuing the Old Pals when the association threatened to fold in the early 1990s. Her son Relf Clark has kindly provided the following obituary:

"Kathleen Clark was born in Stockport on 30 October 1931, her Mancunian parents having moved there that year. In 1937, after some four years in Monkseaton, Tyne and Wear, they settled in Slough; Kathleen's father, an engineer's draughtsman, having obtained a post on the Trading Estate. After attending Montem School, she entered SHS in 1942. A bright, energetic all-rounder, she did well both in the classroom and on the games field and gained distinction as a Girl Guide. Kathleen left school in 1948 and worked for Sun Life, initially in London and then at the company's Slough office, where she met Frank Clark. They were married at Bray Church in 1953 and had two children: Relf (b. 1954), now a retired solicitor, and Sally (b. 1957), a personal assistant. Frank's retirement in 1982 initiated a sequence of foreign holidays, many of them in Tenerife. In 1998 Kathleen and Frank left Bray, having lived there since their marriage, and moved to Hailsham in East Sussex. When Frank died in 2007 Kathleen remained there. Her last few years were clouded by illness and she died at her home on 17 March 2017. Kathleen inspired love and affection in a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. She was a devoted wife and mother, a brilliant domestic manager and a

generous hostess. As a singer she will be remembered for her many leading roles in operatic and Old Time Music Hall productions in the Windsor and Maidenhead area, as well as for her work in the choir at Bray. She was an accomplished pianist and her water-colours testify to considerable skill as an artist. Above all, she will be remembered for her sense of humour and joie de vivre."

Anne Letchford (Reeves, 1943-50) - **Margaret Paine** (see 1940s above) writes: "Anne was born in Slough in 1933, an only child. She grew up in Langley, then went to SHS. According to her funeral service, Anne was a very well-behaved young lady (weren't we all?) and always immaculately dressed. At the local youth club she met John Rule, whom she married - the couple had two boys, Stephen and Philip. Anne worked as a solicitor's secretary and subsequently, a school secretary. Sadly, John passed away in 1973 when the boys were 17 and 18. Later, she met Bill Letchford and they married in 1975. They moved to Cookham and both worked in a bank. Both developed a passion for travel and visited Australia, Cyprus, Europe, America, Canada and many other countries. Anne was a member of the WI (Cookham and Taplow, I think). When Bill died she moved into Penn House in Burnham. When her health deteriorated, she moved to Staffordshire to be near her son; she passed away there on 11th January 2018. There was a lovely remembrance service where we all sang Vera Lynn's 'We'll Meet Again'."

Jean Porter (Currie, 1943-49) - Jean passed away on August 14th 2017. She was in the Oxford House Nursing Home, where she had lived since the beginning of that year. The ever-cheerful Jean was on the Old Girls Committee for many years and a regular supporter at our reunions, where she ran the Bring and Buy stall. She appears in the Ad Astra book. Her nephew Mark and contemporary **Mavis Admans (Westbrook, 1942-49)** have kindly provided the following account of her life: "Jean was born in Slough and attended first Montem School, then SHS. She spent all her working life as a Scientific Civil Servant at The Pest Infestation Laboratory in London Road, Slough. In 45 years of service she published many papers of scientific note. Away from work, however, she was more interested in the arts, demonstrating her talent in a number of areas such as music, dramatic art and verse speaking. Jean loved sport, taking up badminton, tennis, judo, squash, riding and mixed hockey (though in the latter she disliked the excessively rough play by some of the men!). Her most enduring love, however, was fencing: she performed at county level and shared this interest with husband Harry, who fenced for Britain in the World Professional Masters Championships. Travel was another of Jean's passions - she travelled to all corners of the globe and also enjoyed walking holidays. The societies to which she belonged are too numerous to mention, covering subjects such as Scottish dancing, archaeology, history, horticulture and photography, and in these groups she often held positions of responsibility. She was a volunteer steward at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle; a chaplaincy team visitor at Wexham Park Hospital; a founder member of Stoke Poges Society; and a Brownie Guider for 41 years. She also used to record talking books for the blind. She was a proud member of the congregations at St Giles (Stoke Poges) and St John's (Farnham Common) churches and at the former performed a number of roles such as lesson reader, sidesman, flower arranger and chalice assistant. She also loved animals, especially her two cats - one called Harris (after the vicar of Stoke Poges), the other Parsley." (*Did I hear someone mention the words "full life?" Ed.*)

Mary Esling (Testar, 1946-52) - a short letter was received in January from **Ron Esling (1944-52)** saying that his wife Mary had passed away on December 20th 2017, as a result of bronchopneumonia and dementia. They had been married for 61 years. Ron notes that Mary played tennis for SHS and was in a group comprising **Sue Cooper (1944-52)**, Shirley Barratt and Anne Forster. He added that he would be unable to attend the reunion due to age and mobility issues.

BOYS

Tony Jones (1948-55) - Tony's wife **Shirley Jones** (see above) wrote: "Tony passed to go to SGS from the National School in Slough. After SGS he gained an economics degree at LSE. He worked for British European Airways before moving to Perkins Diesel Engines in Peterborough. From there he was moved to Massey Ferguson (Perkins being a part of that company), working in the London office, and eventually became UK Treasurer. He was also a director of several smaller companies. He married Shirley in 1960; they had 3 daughters, 3 grandsons and 4 great-grandchildren."

John Alder (1949-54) - John passed away in Southampton on August 15th last year. His widow Pia kindly supplied a copy of the funeral eulogy, on which the following paragraph is based:

"John was born in Slough in 1938, the eldest of four brothers. After attending SGS he joined the Royal Marines and carried out his basic training in Lymington, Devon. He was then posted to Cyprus, where British forces were engaged fighting the EOKA terrorists. John served 2 years in the Marines, after which he held a series of posts in banking, first with Barclays in London, working as a foreign exchange trader, then with a Swiss bank also in London. In 1970 he emigrated to Canada and joined the Bank of Nova Scotia, with whom he travelled to many parts of the world as an auditor. While working in Beirut in 1980 he met his future wife Pia, whom he married in 1981. There followed postings to Toronto, Panama, the Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, Providenciales and finally to Haiti as senior vice-president of the bank. John took early retirement and the couple settled in Florida but in 1999 they decided to return to Europe, first to Pia's home country of Finland, then to an apartment in Marbella, where they spent 17 happy years. After John experienced health problems they returned to England and settled in Southampton. In 2017 John's condition deteriorated rather quickly as a result of liver cancer and he passed away in August with Pia at his side. John was a staunch Chelsea supporter all his life and a keen sportsman himself, playing cricket, football and golf. He was a man with a great sense of humour, loyal, trustworthy, disciplined and honest. His only real dislike was doing domestic chores!"

1950s

GIRLS

Anthea Fowler (Bailey, 1950-56) - We have been moving back to live in the UK after 10 years in France. We lived in the Vendée for that time and really loved the relaxed way of life, the food, the weather, etc. Our French neighbours were very welcoming and we made many friends there.

Julie Peake (Albrow, 1950-56) - Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the annual reunion in March 2018, as John and I will be travelling around South America at that time. Over the years several old school friends have sent me photos and updates of the reunions but I believe that only a couple of girls from my year were there in 2017. I left Slough High School in 1956, went on to Goldsmiths College and then taught in London before marrying an Australian and moving here in 1961. Since leaving England I have been fortunate enough to visit several school friends:- Jackie Hoskins in Canada (deceased), Jill Mansfield in Poole (deceased), Margaret Curl in Oxford (deceased), Jillian Rider (deceased) and also Sue Clarke, Alyson Skinner and Angela Rix. I have had a great life here in Australia. We have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. We live near the beach in Buderim, Queensland, and have such a full life we don't know how we ever found time to work!! I would like to wish you all the very best and hope the 2018 reunion is a great success.

Val Parkes (1950-56) - Unfortunately, I shall be unable to get to the reunion for health reasons but do hope you have a very successful day. I would like to send best wishes to anyone of my era who remembers me. My grandchildren have been fascinated looking at my copy of "Ad Astra" and seeing that their granny actually was young once! It must have been an enormous task to put the book together and it really is a wonderful record of very happy times for us all.

Rosemary Dickens (1952-58) - I am really sorry that I am no longer able to get to the reunions. My husband has brought me in past years (though not recently), but he sadly passed away last June after suffering from cancer for eight months. I often think of the friends I made at school and have lost contact with. Since retiring to Peterborough in 2005, I have become involved with Health

Watch and am involved in a project in the local prison. I also volunteer at the hospital on Friday mornings and sit as a patient representative on the "Medicine Safety Committee" and "Clinical Audit Forum". I find this very rewarding and fulfilling. My hobbies are painting (oils), cross- stitching and making greeting cards. Apart from these activities, I have very little time. I look forward to receiving the "Ad Astra" book and wish you all a very happy Reunion.

Carolyn Mason (King, 1952-58) - sorry to miss the Reunion again, as travelling (from the Isle of Wight) is an increasing problem these days. But poetry still goes well and in 2017 one of my successes was a short-listing again (as in 2013) in the final 6 from 3,000 entries for the £10,000 Manchester Poetry Prize. Couldn't get to the event this time (and didn't win it!) but it certainly gave me a boost. Do hope you'll all have a great day in March.

Angela Mactavish (1952-59) - provided the photograph below, which shows a scene from a production of "The Boy Mozart" by Slough High School Choral Society in July 1955. In the picture are, left to right: **Angela Mactavish** as Mozart, **Georgina Baker** as Mozart's father and **Susan Pattemore (later Barnes)** as the composer's mother. All attended SHS between 1952-59 and Georgina Baker was subsequently also a member of staff at the school. A review of the performance by the "Windsor, Slough and Eton Express" mentions that "the difficult action of the (harpsichord) keyboard was ably mastered by Angela Mactavish in the part of the young Wolfgang Mozart. The scenes from the boyhood of Mozart were well played and the costumes excellent. Performances were in the school hall and proceeds were for school funds. The hall was filled for each performance."

(Incidentally, the same page in the WS&EE carries some trenchant criticism of other schools in the area. Taplow C of E School was considered by Eton Education Committee to be "too dismal to be believed - like a dungeon - it would have shocked Charles Dickens", while Dorney County Primary School was described as "a sad case - there is so much that needs doing - it is really too deplorable." The paper further noted that entries were coming in for the Miss Slough 1955 competition but none had so far been received for the Berks and Bucks pie-eating championships! - Ed.)



Ruth Sheppard (Clark, 1955-62) - It has been another very busy year and I have added the role of Assistant Church Warden to the list of my activities. I am still singing with the "Gaslights" Old Tyme Music group and am planning my next recital of British Song for this May. Holidays have included a trip to Israel and a river cruise in Provence. I am looking forward to meeting up with friends again and am having **Desne Clarke (Hartwright, 1955-62)** to stay over Reunion weekend.

Celia Johns (Nelmes, 1955-62) - Nothing has really changed for me over the last few years - I am still General Secretary and Webmaster of the National Association of Choirs, and Musical Director of the Gildenburgh Choir in Peterborough. That said, we had a lot of fun in the Choir last April, when we took the big step of going on a short tour to the Isle of Man. Luckily, the Irish Sea behaved itself both going and coming back, and we had no traffic delays getting to and from Heysham. We had one day on a coach tour round the island, and we performed two concerts while we were there, one on our own in Peel Cathedral and the other as a joint concert in Douglas with the ladies' choir Manx Voices and the Lon Dhoo Male Voice Choir. Health continues to be good, although one knee is starting to creak a bit. We still get away several times a year, mainly on coach tours, although we had a very good trip to Portugal for a week last October; found some lovely, sunny, warm weather, as opposed to cold and fog in the UK.... Good wishes to all my friends from SHS, whether attending the Reunion or not - I manage to keep in touch with a fair number through social media, and can thoroughly recommend Facebook for finding long-lost friends in far-off places!

Debbie Wright (Bishop, 1955-62) - I am sorry I cannot attend the reunion, as the date clashes with a choral concert of Bach's "St Matthew's Passion" in York Minster, in which I am singing First Tenor. I shall be going to Munster with the choir in June to sing, among other things, Elgar's "The Music Makers". I am still playing five recorders and my violin for as long as my sight holds up; am active in my local Quaker Meeting; and am a volunteer litter picker (when on one occasion two youths asked me if I was doing Community Service!). My grandson Isaac, now eighteen, has passed his driving test at the third attempt and bought himself a car. He did not know what he wanted to study at university, so is working. The rest of the family is well. I visit my younger daughter Eleanor in Harrogate most months. Naomi lives in Farnborough, so I do not see her or the grandsons so often. It is likely that the Old Paludians Reunion date will clash with future concert dates. I hope not. I wish the reunion well and am sorry not to be there.

Diana Davis (King, 1957-62) - Unfortunately, living here in Ireland, I'm not able to attend the Reunion but always look forward to receiving the Newsletter to see if there is any news from my schoolmates. It's now 12 years since my late husband Brian and I moved from Cambridgeshire to live here in Co. Galway for our retirement - Brian was originally from Ireland. We were so happy here in our new home, but then tragically in 2010 I lost my wonderful husband to pancreatic cancer, so naturally life has never been the same. I decided to remain here in Galway, as we had so many wonderful memories, and we made some amazing friends who are always here for me. I keep myself busy with visits to our three daughters and their families in England and Austria, and their visits to me. I was delighted to welcome the arrival of a new granddaughter over Christmas, which brings the total now to six grandchildren - 4 girls and 2 boys - so I'm kept busy with visits to all the family and some enjoyable holidays in Austria!

Jennifer Ballard (Biss, 1959-62) - Unfortunately, I shall not be able to attend the reunion this year again, as March is the month when I must be in Cyprus every year now, preparing my little apartment for the upcoming summer season lets. Last year I made the decision not to base myself in Cyprus for half the year, as I had previously done, and shipped all of my personal stuff, built up over the past six years or more, back to the UK. Luckily, I was able to sell both my car and my piano, but

all the books/DVDs/bookcases etc and the clothes that I had left there, some pots and pans and surplus bed-linen came back with me. I now have TWO sewing machines, hopefully just for the time being! I am now based in Plymouth and took on an allotment last September, which I am really enjoying despite the recent awful weather. Lots of digging and mending sheds and plans for the growing season ahead! In the autumn of 2016 I had a cataract operation on my R eye, which went disastrously wrong and I was left with no lens at all in that eye. After a 2 1/2 hour operation just before Christmas 2016, a new lens was implanted in the back of my eye and so far seems to be working well. My L eye was operated on last August and went more or less according to plan. Everything is now going well and I am fortunate to have two new good eyes, although I still have to wear glasses. The whole thing put a big hold on my life for quite a while, as I couldn't drive or swim, nor could I read or use the PC much. Now I am again doing Tai Chi and go to classes on a weekly basis. My archery is improving now that I can see properly, and I have joined a local Writers' Group, which is proving interesting. Musical activities in Plymouth are a little curtailed, as I have not made many contacts here on that front. My voice is not good now either, so I have not joined a choir.

BOYS

Arthur Young (1950-55) - I think I might have solved something that always intrigued me. In my first year at Slough Grammar (1950) I was in Form 2C. I wondered why it wasn't 1C. The forms were: 2 ABC, 3 ABC, 4 ABC, Lower 5 ABC, Upper 5 ABC, Lower VI, Upper VI. Halfway through my time this was changed to the more logical 1 ABC, 2 ABC, 3 ABC, 4 LAB, 5 LAB, Lower VI, Upper VI (L stood for Latin). I was in 2C, 3B, 4A, 4L and 5L. Recently I came across a 1912 advert for Slough Secondary School stating that the age of admission was 10. Presumably, the first-year classes were 1 ABC and when, some years later, the admission age was raised to 11 they simply dropped the 1 ABC classes but didn't change the numbering for the older ages. (*A masterly analysis, Arthur - can anyone confirm? Ed.*)

David Pratt (1956-63) - After leaving SGS I went to Exeter University and studied sociology and philosophy. I then worked for the BBC, first as a studio manager and then as a producer in the World Service. Having decided that the BBC was not my favourite place, I went to work for Longman (the educational publishers) as an audio-visual producer. I left there in 1974 to work for an American educational publisher in Los Angeles as managing editor. My then partner had a research post at UCLA (University of California, Los Angeles). Subsequently, we returned to the UK in 1976 and, having discovered that I really liked working on books, I worked at various publishers as an editor. When my first daughter was born I decided to go freelance, as my partner earned considerably more than me. I became a freelance picture researcher and picture editor - which I enjoyed more than anything I had already done. I've got two daughters: Laura, who works in New York for Thomson Reuters, and Miriam, who lives in Cambridge and is a freelance illustrator. Kind of retired and then moved to Spain four years ago. I live in Alhaurin el Grande, a small town 20 miles inland from the Costa del Sol - so avoiding the "gin-and-tonic belt" - with my partner Jane.

Bob Moss (1956-64) - All being well, this year's reunion should feature "Moss Bros" for the first time, ie. attendance by both myself and my two younger brothers **Stephen Moss (1961-68)** and **James Moss (1969-76)**. Recently I have been in touch with a number of contemporaries with whom contact had either lapsed or been lost since leaving school. These include **David Pratt** (see above), **David Garrod** and **Peter Newby** (see below). Peter was in fact a "lapsed" Old Pal - his membership has now been reinstated. David Garrod reports that he and his wife have lived in Wokingham since 1976 and keep pretty active. He is still involved in music and has been organist at the local Baptist church for 39 years now. He is also involved in singing as a member of Crowthorne Choral Society.

Peter Newby (1956-63) - After leaving school I went to Exeter University to study geography with economics. I came under pressure to switch to economics but resisted, as geography had always been my main interest. After my degree course I was offered a scholarship to do a PhD, which I duly obtained - my research theme being urban geography. With a colleague I wrote a textbook which was used both for 'A' level and in universities both in the UK and abroad. While in Exeter I met my wife Radka (her family came from Bulgaria), who was studying French and German. Two years later we married and I began lecturing at what was to become Middlesex Polytechnic (later, Middlesex University). Radka's work was in St Albans and we based ourselves there. In the mid-80s I moved into central management, first in the field of change management. The only thing I'm thankful to Margaret Thatcher for is that she introduced a funding programme called Enterprise in Higher Education; I wrote the bid for Middlesex and suddenly found myself with a million pounds to spend on creating change! Subsequently, I became a professor and moved out of university management to start up a research centre within the university, the Centre for Research in Higher Education. On reaching 60 I took early retirement and we spent much of our time travelling. I also wrote a book (now into its second edition) on research methods for education. We continue to live in St Albans and enjoy gardening. We have two children - a son in Harpenden and daughter in Barnes - plus five delightful grand-daughters, aged between four and ten. I've been involved with the St Albans Civic Society for many years and still supervise doctoral students. I'm trying to improve my Spanish and am interested in wine, taking turns with others to host tasting evenings. I have good memories of my time at SGS and am pleased to be in touch again with old friends.

Philip Watson (1957-62) - I have a copy of an old photograph of the Maths Group for 1959 - with Mr G A Dickinson (GAD), the master (*It is planned to scan this in for the website - Ed.*). He taught the 6th Form students to play bridge. This I still play today, as well as being employed as a bridge tutor, with free weekends and cruises. When I joined the School in the 4th form, having moved to Slough from Gainsborough in Lincolnshire, my surname was **Derks** - I had been adopted by my mother and her second husband. This marriage turned out to be disastrous, so when I went to Nottingham University in 1962, I changed my surname back to Watson, my birth name, by deed poll. Thus in the Swan magazines you will not find me as Watson, but Derks. I was involved in the Chess Club, Bridge Club (see below) and Geographical Society and served as Editor of "The Swan".

Bridge. When we had completed our 'O' level examinations in June 1960, we had to return to school for four or five weeks. Consequently, GAD gave us a choice of what we would like to do. He suggested the following options: more pure mathematics, reading books, or learning to play cards - we didn't want the first two options and told him that we could play cards: pontoon, whist, rummy, brag, poker etc. He stated that he would teach us to play (duplicate) bridge. Thus we had six periods (including two doubles) with the master teaching us bridge for the next few weeks. On entering the 6th form we joined the bridge club and played every Wednesday evening after school for a couple of hours. We also played at a local bridge club on a Friday evening. Thus my interest in bridge was generated. In early 1962 I went for interview at Nottingham University. The whole interview of 45 minutes consisted of discussing bidding systems and card play technique, including discarding and signalling methods etc! Subsequently I accepted the offer of a place and went on to study Economics and Statistics there. (*Looks like he played his cards right! - Ed.*)

****IN MEMORIAM******GIRLS**

Pamela Mackey (Shelton-Smith, 1950-55) - Theda Bramble (1954-61) writes:

"My friend Pamela Mackey, who attended SHS from 1950-55, sadly died in September 2017. I knew Pam even before High School days, as our parents were friends in Slough. After leaving SHS, Pam gained a diploma in floristry and worked in London, Somerset and Devon. She married Chris Mackey in 1967 and they settled in Devon, where they both worked and were volunteer youth leaders. After the birth of their two children Pam continued to do voluntary work at the YMCA in Torquay, in the play-group and nursery, and also helped with admin for the basketball club. In later life Pam and Chris continued their voluntary help and support for the basketball teams and for the local steam railway. They were able to enjoy time with their two grandchildren and celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in May 2017. Unfortunately, in 2014 Pam had a very bad fall which affected her mobility and eventually also her general health. She died in September 2017 and is very much missed by her family and many friends."

Betty Lambourne (Milsom, 1953-58) - The sad news of Betty's death was received in August. She was a member of the small Old Pals choir which performed at reunions and always volunteered her services for the group. **Christine Axford (1953-60)** has supplied this obituary:

"After leaving school Betty underwent secretarial training and held a number of posts in the area, notably secretary to the mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. In this role she was involved in running several important civic events. In September 1963 she married David Lambourne and they had two children, Rachel and Gavin. Twin grandchildren were born in 2014, and Betty was pleased to become a doting grandmother. She enjoyed travelling and with David had many holidays in Britain and Europe. They especially loved France and became friendly with a French family, whom they visited regularly. They liked walking and exploring new places. Betty also supported her husband in his cycling activities. She loved music and was an enthusiastic member of a choir. They performed a number of choral works and gave concerts at prestigious venues such as Eton College School Hall, Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and St. George's Chapel, Windsor. Betty died in August 2017, shortly after her 75th birthday, and will be much missed by her family and her many friends."

BOYS

Clive Toogood (1951-56) - We were informed of Clive's death in September 2017. Clive spent his entire career at Barclay's Bank, which is where he met his wife **Marjorie (Smith, 1950-55)**, whom he married in 1963. They had two daughters, Claire and Susan, and subsequently a number of grandchildren. In January 1966 Clive and Marjorie moved to a house in Langley, where they were still living when Marjorie died in December 2013. Clive worked for Barclay's in a number of different branches until happily accepting a voluntary redundancy package in 1991, having worked for the bank since age 16. After retirement he and Marjorie spent a lot of time travelling the world on various holidays. When Marjorie died Clive moved from Langley to Stubbington, near Fareham. He is remembered by many as an active member of the Old Pals. Daughter Claire writes: "He played football for the Old Pals alongside my late uncle, **Jim Hobbs (1948-56)**, and they were both proud of the fact that they helped with the old clubhouse building in Taplow. It's many years since I visited there but I have very good and happy memories of watching them play - Uncle Jim's dad administering the magic sponge and the half-time oranges, and hot sausage sandwiches in the clubhouse after the match. I believe the last time Dad attended one of your reunions was about

three years ago. He brought his new partner, **Brenda Bristow (1951-56)**, with him as she was ex-Slough High School, and they ended up with their photo in the local paper."

Geoff Dale (1950s) - A notice appeared in the "Maidenhead Advertiser" in September 2017 announcing the death of Geoff Dale. We do not have Geoff's details in the members database but believe he attended SGS in the 1950s. He was married to **Carolyn née Rafferty**, a former pupil of SHS. Geoff played cricket for the Old Pals for many years before moving to White Waltham, where a memorial match for him was held on September 24th.

****1960s****

BOYS

Charles Overton (1962-70) - Rev. Charles Overton resigned as vicar of Chalfont St Peter in October 2016 and now lives in rural Herefordshire, cultivating water-lilies, surveying for newts with the Wildlife Trust and trying to capture the giant carp and pike that lurk in his two-acre garden pond. He also assists the local clergy.... being re-tyred, rather than retired. (*Not my pun - Ed.*)

Michael Frankl (1964-72) - In 2017, after having been barred for five years (*standard rules, not malpractice - Ed.*), I had another go at *Brain of Britain*, a quiz show on BBC Radio 4. Having reached the semi-final in 2012, I hoped this time at least to reach the final. However, I was once again eliminated in the semi-final. In the first round of both my heat and my semi-final I scored seven points by answering five-in-a-row (worth six points) and taking a bonus point off one of the other contestants. However, I struggled for the rest of the programmes and scored very few more points. In my heat, which included a question on the Slough of Despond, I reached ten points, just one ahead of the runner-up. In my semi-final I reached 12 points but was up against a former *Mastermind* finalist who was being coached by Egghead and former *Brain of Britain* champion Barry Simmons (who later commiserated with me) and scored 21 points. Until my next attempt in 2022 I will be in the audience for almost all of the London recordings at Broadcasting House. (*Readers will be relieved to know that he answered the Slough of Despond question correctly - Ed.*)

James Moss (1969-76) - **An Unexpected Result.** Back in 1972, Strodes Grammar had come to Slough and thumped us (as 3rd years) at cricket. In 1973 we go there. It's a Saturday and we have a mix of 3rd and 4th years, as some kids can't play, including Clive Richardson, our captain and best player. On arrival we see Strodes have their full team. Mr Inger, our teacher, calls me over and says "Moss (as captain), looks like it might be a long afternoon. If you win the toss, put them in to bat" (I did and I did). Out walk the twins who open for Strodes - one goes cheaply. #3 is their best player, who scored 50 the previous year. First ball, he is plumb LBW and gone too. So it goes on, they score runs but lose wickets, and after about an hour they are all out. In we go to bat. We scrape together runs but lose wickets too. I make 6 before I am out (*a real captain's innings, if I may say so - Ed/Bro.*). Finally, Ed Neale hits a 4, we have won and the game is over before tea. As we walk off, Mr Inger calls me again: "A most unexpected result, Moss, most unexpected, nice job!" I will never forget the inflection in Mr Painter's voice as he read the result in Monday morning assembly: Strodes Grammar School 25.....Slough Grammar School 26 for 8!

IN MEMORIAM

BOYS

Laurie Brokenshire (1966-71) - Ian Cairns (1964-71) writes: "I'm sure many of you will have heard by now of the death at the age of 64 of Commodore Laurie Brokenshire, CBE, RN, from brain cancer on 4 Aug 2017. He was a regular visitor to our reunions, whenever he could make it. I'd recommend those interested to view his Wikipedia obituary at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurie_Brokenshire and then maybe the "Times" and "Telegraph" obits which are referenced there (if you are not on the Internet, please come to the Reunion computer room to see them). These articles give a feel for the man, his values and his substantial lifetime achievements. I already have some financial backing committed to consider proposing the setting up of a Memorial UCGS Speech Day prize in Laurie's honour, much like that of his contemporary in the School Choir, **Dr Jeremy Black (SGS 1962-1969)** - see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremy_Black_\(assyriologist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeremy_Black_(assyriologist)). The purpose of this note is to request any more of his friends and contacts who would like to contribute to this fund to make themselves known to me, so that I can take this forward. If anyone has any suggestions for the associated category of prize, I'd be very interested to hear from them."

Obituaries to Laurie appeared in "The Daily Telegraph" and "The Times". They are too long to reproduce here but the following points should give an idea of the man and his versatility:

At SGS he captained the chess club and (jointly) the bridge club and played junior hockey for Bucks. He read maths at Exeter, played hockey and table-tennis for the university, and later read a science degree at the Open University.

As well as being a senior naval officer (also a specialist submariner), he was a member of the Magic Circle and a world-class puzzling expert - he owned one of the largest collections of puzzles in the world.

With wife Ethel he camped and cycled the length of several continents to attend International Puzzling Parties.

In 1986 he swam the Channel, as did his son in 2012 (one of the few father/son pairs to do so).

When diagnosed with cancer he undertook a 30-mile sea swim from Fowey to Plymouth with other family members, raising more than £45,000 for charity.

He and Ethel fostered more than 70 children after hearing a radio appeal by Hants CC. He was also an active member of his local church.

NON-ATTENDEES

The following members responded to reunion invitations but stated they would be unable to attend on grounds of age, health, mobility, distance or simply because the date was not convenient:

Vernon Amos (1945-52), Joan Astill (Chennells, 1951-57), Christine Axford (1953-60), Anne Chedlow (Staff, 1947-54), Jane Clark (Nolan, 1974-79), Fred Collins (1941-47), Alyson Coney (Skinner, 1950-55), Eunice Coombley (Hernaman, 1944-49), Bill Eastwell (1942-49), Valerie Gomersall (Watts, 1953-58), Pamela Green (Dear, 1939-44), Anne Harris (1961-68), Mary Haydock (File, 1944-51), Joan Hedge (Stutt, 1936-42), Betty Hull (aka Iris Burnett, 1937-42), David James (1953-60), Alan Jervis (1952-59), Sylvia Lewis (Preston, 1943-47), Pamela Macdonald (Crouch, 1947-53), Patricia Purdue (Staff, 1964-80), John Read (1945-51), Stella Rowlands (1954-61), Gwen Sargent (Jones, 1953-59), Annie Spracklen (Bond, 1952-57), Wendy Stacey (Hughes, 1951-56), Nicholas Taylor (1954-61) & Patricia Taylor (Buckland, 1956-62), Lesley Teasdale (Gerrish, 1954-62), Beverly Webb (1948-56), Linda Wilcock (Weller, 1957-64), Maureen Winter (Ragg, 1949-52).

NEW LIFE MEMBERS FOR 2017-2018

Welcome to the following new members: Alan Akenhead (1945-50), John Bamborough (1951-58), Kavanjot Benepal (1999-2006), Patricia Eastgate (1964-71), John Elder (1960-68), Karen Hannigan (1975-79), Laura Hanson (Green, 1981-85), Colin Hellmuth (1954-61), Gordon Love (1964-71), Susan Mitchell (Mylchreest, 1971-78), Stephen Moss (1961-68), Chris Seddon (1963-70), Lizzie Seethamarar (1982-87), Alicia Snider (Zyczynska, 1981-85), Philip Watson (formerly Derks, 1957-62), Arthur Young (1950-55).

LOST, FOUND AND SEEKING

We have lost touch with the following - does anyone have any news?

Pam Millis (Pywell, SHS 1951-56) - any information appreciated.

David Howie, Barry Kelley, Tom Phillips (all SGS 1956 intake) - Ed Lucas-Smith would like to know if anyone has any news of this trio.

WEBSITE NEWS

The Website is Dead - Long Live the Website!

Twenty years or so ago the Old Paludians Association did not have a website. Then we created one using any webspace we could beg, steal or borrow, and populated it with all the SSS/SGS/SHS school photos we could lay our hands on. We created one of the largest such websites at that time (apart from Friends Reunited) and helped our membership increase substantially. Then, around 2005, we realised we needed to provide edit capability for members and so we migrated our website to the Wikispaces format; the idea being that everyone could contribute to identifying fellow pupils in school photos and reviving old memories. Ten years later, and we began to feel the absence of social networking facilities in our website and interconnectivity with the School's website, and thought that this was holding back our attempts to involve recent students at the School - those youngsters who live and breathe social networks. In 2017, the Committee was fortunate in co-opting **Rajesh Sharma (1981-87)**, who has some experience in the social networking side of websites. He has been developing the next generation of our website - which was rather good timing, as this February we heard that our current home, Wikispaces, would be closing down their business on 31 July 2018. However, Rajesh is poised ready to substitute his new website any day now, giving us a seamless handover. There will be an initial switch to the new web format shortly and we hope to be able to demonstrate it at Reunion 2018. Further features will be added over time to help us broaden and deepen the bonds between Old Paludians. **Ian Cairns, Webmaster**

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/17

The Old Paludians Association made a surplus in 2017 of £1,100 (2016: loss of £739). At the beginning of the year the Committee resolved to maintain the reserves at around £1,500 and not to incur any more losses like those incurred in previous years. Donations of £1,129 were received from members of the OPA prior to the Reunion in March. The Committee resolved to donate £1,000 to the school. Instead of (as in previous years) donating commemorative books to the library, the Committee resolved to donate to two projects suggested by the school, totalling around £1,000. The first of these, two wireless head microphone sets for the Drama Department costing £448, was paid. A further £500 for part of the cost of a drinking fountain had not been

spent by the end of the year. A further £701 in donations was received from members in the autumn. The Committee has not yet allocated these funds to any particular project.

The Reunion Day income and expenditure showed a surplus of £140. In addition, the raffle at the Reunion raised £305. This money was effectively used to fund printing, postage and storage. In May the Association was able to give up its commercial storage space for the archives, which are now stored in the school, with a consequent cost saving. The cost of the storage up to May was £258 (full year 2016: £939).

The balance of the Old Paludians Association's funds at 31 December 2017 was £2,736 (2016: £1,636), with the £500 drinking fountain donation yet to be made.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/12/2017

INCOME

EXPENDITURE

	2017	2016		2017	2016
Reunion Day Income	£1,172.60	£867.50	Reunion Day Expenditure	£1,032.37	£858.00
Donations	£1,829.50	£1,168.99	Donations to UCGS	£448.33	£1,100.00
Subscriptions	£140.00	£20.00	Flowers & Gifts	£150.00	£25.00
Raffle	£305.00	£274.00	Stationery	£19.19	£15.98
Books	£377.00	£265.00	Books	£287.00	£240.00
Bring&Buy etc	£0.00	£61.20	Printing	£220.03	£179.16
Other	£20.00	£105.18	Postage	£329.01	£143.88
			Storage	£258.34	£939.28
TOTAL	£3,844.10	£2,761.87	TOTAL	£2,744.27	£3,501.30

	2017	2016
Brought forward from previous year	£1,635.50	£2,374.93
Income for year	£3,844.10	£2,761.87
Expenditure for year	-£2,744.27	-£3,501.30
Income/(loss) for year	£1,099.83	-£739.43
Carried forward to next year	£2,735.33	£1,635.50

Represented by:

Balance per bank statement 31/12/17 £2,712.73
 Prepayment (stamps) £ 22.60

£2,735.33

Accounts prepared by Michael Frankl (1964-72)

Accounts examined by: Ron Fidler (1943-49)

AGM OF THE OLD PALUDIANS ASSOCIATION, 2017

This is a summary of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 25th March 2017 at 11.30 am in the restaurant at Upton Court Grammar School, Lascelles Road, Slough.

Welcome: the acting Chairman, Ron Fidler, welcomed Mrs. Hernandez Estrada, the Association President and Principal of Upton Court Grammar School; also over 100 members, which was a significant increase on 2016, when 73 attended.

Approval of 2016 Annual General Meeting Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2016, which had been included in the Newsletter, were approved.

Roll of Honour: Patrick Donachy read the names of 13 members who had died since the 2016 reunion.

Treasurer's Report for the Year ended 31 December 2016: Michael Frankl briefly summarised the accounts and the report that had been included in the Newsletter. The Association made a loss in 2016 of £739 (2015 £1,948), driven by the archive storage costs of £939. This will be reduced in 2017, as the archives are moved to the school. Donations of £1,169 were made to UCGS, mainly to support the library. Funds in hand at 31/12/2016 were £1,636 (2015 £2,375). The accounts had been reviewed by Ron Fidler, Accounts Examiner. The meeting approved the accounts.

Website Report: Ian Cairns briefly summarised the actions being taken to update and improve the existing site and developments being considered to integrate it with the UCGS site in the future.

Archives Report: The problem of archive storage remained, but the Principal had now offered storage space in the school when building work was complete.

UCGS Activities Update: Mrs. Hernandez Estrada summarised the latest situation regarding building work at the school and the expansion of the Education Trust. She also outlined the challenges facing the school and education at both local and national levels.

The Head Prefects made a presentation on some of the activities taking place at the school.

Resignation/Election of Officers: The Chairman reported that long-serving committee members Jean Tyler, Shirley Lane and Margaret Paine were retiring. Presentations were made to them. In addition, Emma Flint and David Pritchard were standing down. They were thanked for their service to the Association. Celia Johns proposed that Ron Fidler become Chairman. He agreed to stand for a year and was duly elected. All other committee members were prepared to carry on, namely: Bob Moss (Newsletter Editor), Michael Frankl (Treasurer, who was also acting as Membership Secretary), Ian Cairns (Webmaster), Marie Hughes (Minute Secretary), Jane Brown, David Rogers, Alan Forbes, Colin Cairns and Patrick Donachy. They were re-elected en bloc. Robin Hannigan, who had been co-opted onto the Committee, was also elected. The Chairman asked for volunteers, particularly from the High School, to fill vacant positions. Only one member, Rajesh Sharma, came forward and was duly elected.

Discussion of "The Way Ahead" Questionnaire: The summary of answers to the questionnaire had been included in the Newsletter. The Chairman stated that some changes had been made to the Reunion Day so that members could spend more time talking to friends. Possible activities to be shared with UCGS, as suggested by Angela MacTavish, would be considered by the Committee. Every effort was being made to improve contacts with UCGS, greatly assisted by Senior Vice-President Naveed Hussain. This was essential in order to attract new young members.

Date of next Reunion: a provisional date was announced as 24th March 2018.

THE OLD PALS COMMITTEE 2018

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